

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A lens barrel used for an imaging device capable of converting an optical image of an object into an electrical image signal, the lens barrel comprising:

an imaging optical system for forming the optical image of the object;

a focus lens unit which is included in the imaging optical system and capable of changing an object distance by moving in a direction parallel to an optical axis of the imaging optical system;

a moving [[means]] unit for moving the focus lens unit in the direction parallel to the optical axis;

a driving [[means]] unit for driving the moving [[means]] unit;

a first operating member which is of a cylindrical shape coaxial to the optical axis of the imaging optical system and manually operated in a rotational manner in order to drive the driving [[means]] unit to thereby move the focus lens unit by the moving [[means]] unit; [[and]]

a second operating member which is integrally provided in the first operating member; ~~and ,and operated in order to switch between a state of allowing a manual rotating operation of the first operating member and a state of preventing the manual rotating operation~~

a biasing unit for biasing the second operating member in an outward direction of the first operating member, wherein:

when the second operating member is depressed in an inward direction of the first operating member, the second operating member allows the first operating member to be manually rotated from a rotating range to another rotating range, and

when the second operating member is not depressed in the inward direction of the first operating member, the second operating member prevents the first operating member from being manually rotated from a rotating range to another rotating range.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A lens barrel used for an imaging device capable of converting an optical image of an object into an electrical image signal, the lens barrel comprising:

an imaging optical system for forming the optical image of the object;

an aperture stop which is provided in a specified position on the optical axis of the imaging optical system and capable of changing an aperture of the imaging optical system;

a driving ~~[[means]]~~ unit for operating the aperture stop;

a first operating member which is of a cylindrical shape coaxial to the optical axis of the imaging optical system and manually operated in a rotational manner in order to drive the driving ~~[[means]]~~ unit to thereby change the aperture of the aperture stop; ~~by the changing means; and~~

a second operating member which is integrally provided in the first operating member, ~~and -and-operated in order to switch between a state of allowing a manual rotating operation of the first operating member and a state of preventing the manual rotating operation~~

a biasing unit for biasing the second operating member in an outward direction of the first

operating member, wherein:

when the second operating member is depressed in an inward direction of the first operating member, the second operating member allows the first operating member to be manually rotated from a rotating range to another rotating range, and

when the second operating member is not depressed in the inward direction of the first operating member, the second operating member prevents the first operating member from being manually rotated from a rotating range to another rotating range.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An imaging device capable of converting an optical image of an object into an electrical image signal, the imaging device comprising:

the lens barrel according to claim 12 including the imaging optical system for forming the optical image of the object;

an image sensor for converting the optical image formed by the imaging optical system into the electrical image signal; and

a control [[means]] unit,

wherein the lens barrel further includes an angle of rotation detecting [[means]] unit for outputting a signal in accordance with an angle of rotation of the first operating member, and

wherein when the first operating member is rotationally operated in a state where a rotating operation of the first operating member is allowed by an operation of the second operating member, the control [[means]] unit generates said control signal for moving the focus lens unit based on the signal outputted by the angle of rotation detecting [[means]] unit.

17. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 16, further comprising
an operation [[means]] unit for calculating a defocus amount of the imaging optical system,

wherein when an operation start is instructed in a state where the rotating operation of the first operating member is prevented by the operation of the second operating member, the control [[means]] unit generates said control signal for moving the focus lens unit based on an operation result of the operation [[means]] unit.

18. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 17, wherein the defocus amount of the operation [[means]] unit is calculated based on the image signal outputted by the image sensor.

19. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 16,
wherein the imaging optical system is a zoom lens system,
wherein the imaging device further comprises;
an operation [[means]] unit for calculating a defocus amount of the imaging optical system; [[,]] and

a focal length detection [[means]] unit for detecting a focal length of the imaging optical system, and

wherein when the operation start is instructed in the state where the rotating operation of the first operating member is prevented by the operation of the second operating member, the control [[means]] unit generates the control signal for moving the focus lens unit based on the operation result of the operation [[means]] unit and a detection result of the focal length

detection [[means]] unit.

20. (Currently Amended) An imaging device capable of converting an optical image of an object into an electrical image signal, the imaging device comprising:

the lens barrel according to claim 14 including the imaging optical system for forming the optical image of the object;

an image sensor for converting the optical image formed by the imaging optical system into the electrical image signal; and

a control [[means]] unit,

wherein the lens barrel further includes an angle of rotation detecting [[means]] unit for outputting a signal in accordance with an angle of rotation of the first operating member, and

wherein when the first operating member is rotationally operated in a state where a rotating operation of the first operating member is allowed by an operation of the second operating member, the control [[means]] unit generates the control signal for changing an aperture of the aperture stop based on the signal outputted by the angle of rotation detecting [[means]] unit.

21. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 20, further comprising:

a photometry [[means]] unit for detecting a quantity of light; [[,]] and

an operation [[means]] unit for calculating an aperture of the imaging optical system based on a detection result of the photometry [[means]] unit,

wherein when the operation start is instructed in a state where the rotating operation of

the first operating member is prevented by the operation of the second operating member, the control [[means]] unit generates the control signal for changing the aperture of the aperture stop based on an operation result of the operation [[means]] unit.

22. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 21, wherein the photometry [[means]] unit is the image sensor.

23. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 20, further comprising
a photometry [[means]] unit for measuring a quantity of light,
a shutter speed setting [[means]] unit for setting a shutter speed, and
an operation [[means]] unit for calculating the aperture of the imaging optical system
based on the detection result of the photometry [[means]] unit and a setting of the shutter speed
setting [[means]] unit.

wherein when the operation start is instructed in the state where the rotating operation of the first operating member is prevented by the operation of the second operating member, the control [[means]] unit generates the control signal for changing the aperture of the aperture stop based on the operation result of the operation [[means]] unit.

24. (Currently Amended) The imaging device according to claim 23, wherein the photometry [[means]] unit is the image sensor.